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Operational activities for development: economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 52/204 of 18 December 1997, commended Member States and organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system that had maintained, enhanced and initiated development cooperation with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and called upon those that had not yet established contact and relationships with the Community to explore the possibility of doing so. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of SADC, to continue to intensify contacts aimed at promoting and harmonizing cooperation between the United Nations and the Community; and to report to it at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the resolution.

2. Pursuant to that resolution, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale dated 26 April 1999 to the Governments of the States Members of the United Nations, requesting information on specific measures undertaken in implementation of the resolution. He also dispatched letters dated 21 April 1999 to the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations, requesting them to submit their contributions for the preparation of his report.

3. The present report is based on the information received from Member States and organizations and United Nations bodies as of 20 August 1999. Any further replies received will be incorporated in an addendum to the report.

II. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community

A. Action taken by Member States

1. China

4. China has continued its economic and technical assistance to SADC countries and since late 1997, has provided assistance for a middle school project in Seychelles, a housing project in South Africa and a water supply and boiler project for a coal mine in the United Republic of Tanzania. In addition, five new projects have been initiated, including an ageing centre in Mauritius, a low-cost housing project in Namibia and a middle school project in Seychelles. Five projects completed within the reporting period include a postal service centre in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a water station in Namibia, an international conference centre in Lesotho and

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an integrated technical and middle school in Seychelles. In response to requests by SADC countries, China has also provided office equipment, farm tools and light industry products to Angola, medical and agricultural equipment to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 60 personal computers to Lesotho, jeeps and motorcycles to Mozambique, personal computers, sports equipment, timber-processing equipment and tractors and farm implements to Namibia, and a moveable bridge to Zambia.

2. European Union

5. The Third SADC/European Union Ministerial Conference held in Vienna on 3 and 4 November 1998 (see A/53/668, annex), reviewed ongoing cooperation between the two organizations and discussed future priorities including support for democratic institutions and the promotion of human rights through logistical and technical assistance for the electoral process in SADC countries; cooperation in the area of conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacekeeping; strengthening cooperation to combat crime, drug trafficking and the illegal trade of small arms; support for regional integration, *inter alia*, technical assistance for the establishment of a SADC free trade zone and support to the transport sector; promotion of trade and investment and assistance to small and medium enterprises.

6. The SADC/European Union dialogue was reinforced by regular meetings between officials, as well as by conferences and seminars attended by public sector experts, representatives of parliament and non-governmental organizations. In this context, the "SADC African Regional Action Programme against Illicit Trafficking in Conventional Arms" and the European Union-SADC Joint Working Group on Small Arms, endorsed by the Vienna ministerial meeting, were set up to identify relevant projects.

7. Under the most recent Regional Indicative Programme signed in October 1996, the European Commission and SADC agreed on priority areas for which 12 million euros were allocated for a five-year period. During 1997-1998, projects have focused on: combating drugs, arms trafficking and organized crime; assisting in mine clearance; supporting regional integration and democratization; increasing competence and institution building in public administration; human resources development; rehabilitation and development of the transport sector; promotion of trade and investment; improving land, water and energy resources management; and HIV/AIDS prevention.

8. Since the adoption of resolution 52/204, the Commission of the European Union decided to finance several new initiatives, including a major SADC regional fisheries monitoring control and surveillance project for the SADC coastal States (14.45 million euros); rehabilitation of a part of the North-South road axis (39 million euros); and a food security training project (4.153 million euros); SADC statistical programme (4.8 million euros) and, in the context of the crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, support for the SADC-mandated Lusaka peace process (2.65 million euros). The Commission also allocated about 35 million euros from the SADC-regional indicative programme to various SADC/European Union projects implemented during 1997 and 1998.

9. In addition, individual European Union member States have made funds and other forms of assistance available to SADC and to its member States on a bilateral basis. Information on those contributions and on the assistance of the Commission to individual SADC member States is given below.

Assistance by member States of the European Union to the Southern African Development Community and/or individual member States of the Southern African Development Community on a bilateral basis

10. Bilateral official development assistance worth more than 180 million schillings (about 13.1 million euros) was channelled to SADC member States in 1998 by Austria; new financial commitments amounting to 1.092 million Belgian francs were made by Belgium since May 1997; and Finland extended 10.5 million markkaa to SADC countries in 1998. Official development assistance by France amounted to 1.428 million French francs (FF) (230 million United States dollars (US$)) in 1997. The main beneficiaries were the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FF 111 million), Mauritius (FF 124 million), Mozambique (FF 286 million), South Africa (FF 231 million), United Republic of Tanzania (FF 471 million), and FF 2 million for the SADC multinational peacekeeping training exercise, code-named "Blue Crane", held in South Africa from 4 to 21 December 1998.

11. During 1997, Germany's official development assistance amounted to 10 million deutsche mark (DM) to SADC regional projects and DM 295 million to SADC member States as follows: Angola (DM 20 million), Democratic Republic of the Congo (DM 20 million), Lesotho (DM 9 million), Malawi (DM 75 million), Mozambique (DM 35 million), Namibia (DM 60 million), South Africa (DM 56 million), Zambia (DM 17 million) and Zimbabwe (DM 3 million). In 1998, DM 13 million was extended to the SADC secretariat, and support for the SADC "Blue Crane"

peacekeeping training exercise amounted to more than DM 1 million. In addition, DM 298 million was extended to SADC member States, as follows: Botswana (DM 6 million), Democratic Republic of the Congo (DM 15 million), Malawi (DM 3 million), Mozambique (DM 62 million), South Africa (DM 47 million), United Republic of Tanzania (DM 68 million), Zambia (DM 30.5 million), Zimbabwe (DM 57.5 million). Humanitarian and development aid by Greece to SADC member States amounted to US$ 0.32 million in 1997 (Angola $0.02 million, Democratic Republic of the Congo $0.03 million, Mauritius $0.11 million, South Africa $0.16 million) and 115 million drachmas (Dr) in 1998: South Africa (Dr 60 million) and United Republic of Tanzania (Dr 55 million).

12. The total official development assistance of the Netherlands to the region amounted to 380 million Netherlands guilder (f.) during 1998, with a special contribution of f. 495,000 for the SADC "Blue Crane" peacekeeping training exercise. Bilateral aid to SADC member States in 1998 was as follows: Angola (f. 22.8 million), Democratic Republic of the Congo (f. 6.2 million), Lesotho (f. 0.3 million), Mozambique (f. 74.9 million), Namibia (f. 14.4 million), South Africa (f. 60 million), United Republic of Tanzania (f. 133.7 million), Zambia (f. 29.8 million) and Zimbabwe (f. 37.1 million). Portugal's bilateral official development assistance to SADC member States in 1997 amounted to 20.79 billion Portuguese escudos (US$ 118.63 million). Spain's bilateral assistance to SADC member States in 1998 amounted to 1,453 million pesetas (approximately 8.76 million euros). Sweden's assistance to the region amounted to 180 million Swedish kronor in 1998 and 250 million kronor in 1999. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland extended 261.97 million pounds sterling (£) in aid to SADC member States during 1997 and 1998. Its financial contribution for the "Blue Crane" peacekeeping training exercise in 1998 amounted to £220,000 and £200,000 for the "Blue Hungwe" exercise in 1997.

Assistance by the Commission of the European Union to individual member States of the Southern African Development Community

13. Since the beginning of 1997, the Commission of the European Union has committed approximately 680 million euros to individual SADC member States under their national indicative programmes. In addition, approximately 600 million euros were allocated by the Commission from non-indicative programme sources to member States in the same period.

3. India

14. India signed a memorandum of understanding with SADC in October 1997, identifying agriculture, including seed technology, water resources management, human resources development, entrepreneurial development, small and medium-scale industries promotion, non-conventional energy sources and enterprise development through private sector involvement as the main areas of cooperation. In the context of India's Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme, more than 50 per cent of trainee (i.e. 710) positions are filled by Africans, of which 275 are from SADC countries. In addition 28 positions are offered to SADC for its own utilization at the regional level.

4. Kuwait

15. The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development to African Countries has provided loans and grants to the following SADC countries during the reporting period: Angola, 5.200 million Kuwaiti dinars (KD) for agricultural projects; Botswana, KD 2.151 million for electricity development, KD 10.105 million for transport and communication and KD 1.627 million for agricultural development; the Democratic Republic of the Congo, KD 4.100 million for transport and communication; Lesotho, KD 1.100 million for water and sewerage projects and KD 5.797 million for transport and communication; Malawi, KD 7.000 million for transport and communication; Mauritius, KD 9.570 million for water and sewage development and KD 6.052 million in electricity development; Mozambique, KD 15.315 million in transport and communication and KD 3.100 million for agricultural development; Seychelles, KD 2.150 million for electricity and KD 1.620 million for agriculture development; Swaziland, KD 3.100 million for transport and communication development; United Republic of Tanzania, KD 15.880 million for industrial development, KD 5.169 million in electricity development, KD 24.278 million for transport and communication and KD 1.200 million for other projects; and Zimbabwe, KD 16.426 million for transport and communication and KD 10.800 million for agricultural projects.

5. Mexico

16. Since 1996, the Government of Mexico has participated in the annual consultative meetings of SADC as an observer. This has strengthened political relations between Mexico and SADC countries and helped to identify potential areas of bilateral and multilateral cooperation. At the bilateral level, Mexico has shared its experience in the

areas of economic liberalization, finance, science and technology, local administration, legislation, culture and education. In the latter category, Mexico offers postgraduate scholarships to nationals of SADC countries.

6. Norway

17. Norway contributed 57.6 million Norwegian Krone (Nkr) during 1998 and has allocated Nkr 80 million for 1999 for the SADC region, with an emphasis on economic development and natural resources management projects. Norway has increased support to programmes for democratization, human capacity-building, social services and the development of the social sector in line with the increasing attention being given to these sectors by countries of the region. Norway and SADC countries have agreed to a number of projects in training and education for these sectors.

18. In the area of economic development, Norwegian assistance has been primarily directed to projects for investment and capacity-building in transport and communication, energy, private sector development and environment. Norway has lent its support to activities undertaken in the field of human rights, democratization through the development of a free and independent media and legal rights for women and children. It has also supported a research and capacity-building project on conflict prevention and conflict resolution, as well as a number of activities on environmental issues which are due to be transferred from the SADC level to nationally based units of coordination.

7. Thailand

19. Thailand has provided technical assistance to Malawi, Mauritius, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, including training and study tours covering agriculture, education, health, management and human resources development within the framework of Asia-Africa cooperation and South-South cooperation. It has individually and collectively sought new social and economic development initiatives within the context of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD-I). In 1997, it co-hosted the Asia-Africa Forum II in Bangkok in cooperation with the Government of Japan, the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Global Coalition for Africa. It is actively participating in the preparatory committee for TICAD II. Although it is still recovering from the current financial crisis, Thailand remains committed to African development and will maintain its triangular development cooperation with African countries in the areas of agriculture, education, environment protection, health and tourism development.

8. United States of America

20. As a follow up to resolution 52/204, the first SADC/United States Forum was held in Gaborone on 14 and 15 April 1999, at which the United States advocated joint efforts to enhance security and stability, create open, liberalized markets for commerce and investment, address pressing social issues, increase economic integration, foster greater political stability, and reduce the potential for conflict in Africa.

21. The Forum addressed ways of improving the climate for foreign and domestic investment in the SADC region. It noted the importance of strengthening an entrepreneurial environment, privatization and restructuring of state assets, the rule of law, the pursuit of sound macroeconomic policies and regulatory regimes, and the role regional integration plays in attracting new investment and improving economic efficiency. It emphasized the creation of a free trade area in SADC and focused on the issue of non-tariff barriers. The United States pledged to support the region's efforts to implement the SADC Trade Protocol.

22. SADC delegations welcomed President Clinton's new debt relief initiative launched at the United States-Africa Ministerial Meeting, "Partnership for the Twenty-first Century", held in Washington, D.C., from 15 to 18 March 1999. The United States agreed to assist SADC to better utilize the benefits and opportunities offered by the United States Generalized System of Preferences and to establish a mechanism for dialogue on this issue. The Forum agreed to establish a United States/SADC Business Council to help Governments to identify ways of expanding trade and investment.

23. The United States delegation highlighted its Government's efforts at combating corruption, including implementation of the United States Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. SADC representatives emphasized the need to continue current anti-corruption activities in the region, but indicated that they needed support, especially in the training and capacity-building of law enforcement institutions.

24. The United States offered assistance to improve the region's transportation and communications infrastructure and agreed to explore the feasibility of establishing regional technology transfer centres to assist SADC in developing road networks. With regard to expanding its communications

infrastructure, SADC welcomed the willingness of the United States to engage SADC in risk assessment and contingency planning for 2000.

25. The Forum acknowledged that small-arms trafficking presented a serious threat to development and political stability. It agreed that a regional approach to small-arms control was essential and agreed to explore the possibility of establishing an international law enforcement academy in southern Africa to provide training for law enforcement and customs officials in cooperation with appropriate SADC organs. The Forum focused on the ability of the affected member States to establish sustainable demining capabilities. It was recommended that SADC countries continue to address this pressing issue through a bilateral and regional approach. The United States expressed its readiness to consider an appropriate regional approach and noted that it would continue to provide bilateral assistance for demining programmes in the SADC region.

26. The Forum stressed the importance of improving production, processing, and market access for agricultural products. It agreed to work towards reducing agricultural tariffs in the context of the next trade liberalization negotiations of the World Trade Organization. The Forum recognized that biotechnology, sanitary and phytosanitary issues would be crucial factors in agricultural trade and in ensuring adequate food production and environmental sustainability into the next century. The United States offered to provide a risk assessment workshop to help SADC officials to better evaluate sanitary and phytosanitary risks.

27. The Forum pointed out that the SADC region faced serious problems of environmental degradation that could undermine long-term economic growth, and identified three priority areas for collaboration, namely: desertification/land use, climate change and pollution. It agreed to focus on building capacity of SADC to address those areas.

28. Both sides agreed to collaborate on developing a harmonized HIV/AIDS policy for SADC and to hold regional workshops for representatives of the health, human resource development and other relevant sectors.

B. Action taken by the United Nations system

1. Department of Economic and Social Affairs

29. Within the framework of further advancing the implementation of the SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems of 1995, the Department is executing preparatory work on a global environment fund proposal for integrated management of the Okavango basin through direct technical cooperation with the Permanent Okavango Basin Commission, and assisting the tripartite Technical Committee for the Maputo Basin in the preparation of a medium-sized project brief for the global environment fund. Regarding the preparations for the SADC Water Sector Round Table Conference, the Department carried out detailed technical cooperation with Angola, Mozambique and Namibia to help prepare country situation reports for the SADC Water Sector Coordination Unit.

30. The Department also executes the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)-funded project entitled "Support to SADC Countries in Population and Housing Censuses and Other Large-Scale Demographic Surveys (Phase I)", which is training the statistical/census staff in SADC countries on the most recent approaches of census taking and data processing. Furthermore, the Department supports many training/fellowship activities in statistics on external trade, national accounts, economic classifications and environment.

2. Department of Public Information

31. United Nations information centres gave wide dissemination to the reports of the Secretary-General on issues related to Africa, and to his speeches and published articles. Press conferences, lectures and seminars were organized and the print media, radio and television were used to promote the United Nation System-wide Special Initiative on Africa and the entry into force of the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. A second regional forum on poverty eradication in southern Africa was held by Harare, Pretoria and Windhoek UNICS at Midrand, South Africa in November 1997 and extensive assistance was provided by the UNIC in Tokyo to the TICAD-II conference held in October 1998.

32. *Africa Recovery* highlighted efforts made by SADC to promote food security, equitable and sustainable use of shared water resources, business and trade in the region, democracy and economic progress. The publication also focused on the efforts of SADC countries in post-conflict reconstruction, clearing of landmines and rehabilitation of disaster victims, empowerment of the poor, particularly women, land distribution, and social and economic development. The *UN Chronicle* provided ongoing, in-depth analyses of the crisis situations in Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

3. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

33. The Special Programme for Food Security of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is operational in Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe and is expected to be extended to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. A regional programme for food security is also being formulated in cooperation with SADC.

34. FAO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) are assisting the SADC Forestry Sector Technical Cooperation Unit to enable member countries to monitor success in sustainable forest management and to develop a subregional plan of action for the conservation, management and sustainable utilization of forest genetic resources. FAO is assisting the SADC Early Warning System, the SADC Food Security Unit and the SADC Regional Communication for Development Centre. In addition, FAO is implementing a regional programme on preparedness for drought mitigation and prevention strategies, as recommended by the SADC High-Level Drought Policy seminar held in Gaborone from 17 to 19 November 1997. FAO is implementing five regional programmes in the field of agricultural research at farm level, communication for development, aquaculture development, animal health and production and seed security.

4. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

35. The basis of cooperation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and SADC continues both at the level of the SADC secretariat and with member Governments to be the memorandum of understanding concluded in July 1996 to enhance the protection and welfare of refugees in the region. The SADC Council of Ministers meeting held in Maputo in January 1998 called for a review of refugee management and established a SADC Working Group on Refugees comprising eight States under the chairmanship of Mozambique. UNHCR has provided advisory and research services and facilitated familiarization visits and working meetings for the Working Group. The second main area of cooperation is to assist SADC efforts to formulate and institutionalize contingency planning and emergency response to both natural and man-made disasters in the region and to assist in the establishment of a coordinating mechanism for this purpose in order for member countries to effectively utilize regional civil-defence assets and human resources.

36. At the country level, UNHCR has carried out operational activities to protect and provide assistance to refugees in emergency situations and enhance emergency response capacity in Angola, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia, including the training of government and implementing partner officials.

37. UNHCR participated in the elaboration of the humanitarian aspects and the refugee scenario of the SADC "Blue Crane" peacekeeping exercise held in South Africa in April 1999.

5. International Civil Aviation Organization

38. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) continued its assistance to the SADC secretariat and on a bilateral basis to Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho and Zimbabwe towards the development of civil aviation infrastructures.

6. International Labour Organization

39. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has assisted the SADC Coordinating Unit of the Employment and Labour Sector in the creation of a SADC regional data bank on employment and labour issues, and the Governments of Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe on projects aimed at employment creation and in promoting ratification and implementation of ILO conventions, including ILO human rights conventions in the SADC countries. It has helped Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe in implementing international labour, safety and health standards, as well as assisted regional countries to carry out surveys on the issue of child labour and to implement programmes towards the elimination of this phenomenon. ILO is assisting the relevant social partners in countries of the region, including Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, to develop social security and insurance schemes for workers and to develop and strengthen capacity for dispute settlement and collective bargaining. In collaboration with other United Nations agencies ILO is also assisting regional countries to help reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS.

7. International Monetary Fund

40. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) provides technical assistance to individual SADC countries and on a region-wide basis through the SADC secretariat, the committee of Central Bank governors and the Finance and Investment Sector Coordinating Unit. The priority areas for technical assistance and training are the financial sector, fiscal consequences of trade reform and data issues. IMF

economists are carrying out analysis on the performance of SADC economies and macroeconomic policies and studying ways to improve economic stability and to stimulate trade, investment and savings.

41. Resident advisers and experts from IMF provide technical assistance on payments issues, banking regulation and supervision and training on international best practices in these fields, and have conducted financial programming workshops in cooperation with the Macroeconomic and Financial Management Institute of Eastern and Southern Africa.

8. World Bank

42. The activities of the World Bank in consultation with SADC include work with the SADC Finance and Investment Coordinating Unit to support harmonization of financial infrastructure (systems, regulation and supervision); the SADC Drought Monitoring Centre on the creation of a subregional network linking suppliers and users of long-lead climate forecasts; SADC, Southern Africa Power Pool member countries and power utilities, on the development of the Southern Africa Power Pool; SADC and the Southern Africa Transport and Communication Commission on preparing a subregional agenda for SADC infrastructure and the promotion of Transport/Development Corridors in SADC; SADC Environment and Land Management Sector and other partners on the subregion's strategy for integrated water resource development and management. The Bank is also analysing trade regimes and trade flows in the subregion as an input to evaluating the implications of the SADC trade protocol on member countries.

43. The Bank is also supporting the development of special economic zones and development corridors, such as the Maputo Development Corridor, the Maluti-Drakensburg Trans-frontier Conservation Project and the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, and is assisting the Southern Africa Enterprise Network and the Africa Telecom Initiative.

9. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

44. The basis of the cooperation between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and SADC continues to be implemented within the 1996 memorandum of understanding entered into by the two organizations. UNESCO participates in SADC meetings, including the SADC Consultation with International Cooperating Partners held in Maputo on 31 January 1998, the First SADC Round Table Conference on Integrated Water Development and Management held in Geneva on 10 and 11 December 1998 and the 1999 SADC Consultative Conference held in Lusaka on 11 and 12 February 1999.

45. UNESCO has provided financial assistance for the creation of a subregional network on teacher training and curriculum development and is implementing a project funded by the Government of the Netherlands entitled "SADC/UNESCO Initiative in Educational Policy Development". In the area of science and technology, UNESCO has provided training for curricula development, helped in organizing an exhibition in Durban, South Africa in October 1998 and assisted in research in renewable energy technologies in Malawi, Namibia and South Africa.

46. UNESCO participated in the SADC Regional Gender Review Workshop held in Windhoek from 22 to 27 November 1998 and SADC participated in the UNESCO Pan-African Conference on Women's Contribution to a Culture of Peace held in Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania from 17 to 20 May 1999 and in UNESCO's International Conference on Cultural Policies for Development held in Stockholm from 30 March to 2 April 1998. UNESCO has supported the research and promotion of African languages and oral traditions through dance, music, film and artisan exhibitions in the subregion and the development of the Southern African Information System. UNESCO has supported the greater participation of women media professionals in media management through the SADC Federation of Africa Media Women. In cooperation with other donors, UNESCO is also supporting training in computer and telematic equipment, in particular for youth and in establishing multipurpose community telecentres in SADC countries.

10. United Nations Children's Fund

47. In collaboration with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNICEF is working with the SADC secretariat to construct an adequate regional response to HIV/AIDS within the context of the SADC Health Sector Biennial Priorities 1999-2000. UNICEF is assisting in strengthening the SADC's policy research capabilities and in undertaking of advocacy initiatives aimed at breaking the conspiracy of silence about the disease and in ensuring a higher level of political commitment. UNICEF is assisting the sanitation efforts of the SADC Water Unit by strengthening regional institutions and by drawing on lessons learned from country level water and sanitation programmes and provides policy and research support to the Unit in the area of transboundary water resources management. The SADC/UNICEF programme facilitated the formation of a Regional Support Network for Hygiene and

Sanitation in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, FAO, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), UNESCO as well as regional organizations and regional non-governmental organizations and also provides advice to programmes being implemented by donor countries in the SADC region in the area of water and sanitation.

48. UNICEF is assisting SADC to monitor implementation by regional countries to implement the programme of the World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, Beijing, September 1995, particularly in the area of gender equality in education and in developing regional approaches to life skills education. UNICEF is also assisting the Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa in projects in cooperation with SADC parliamentarians on issues such as HIV/AIDS, child combatants, land mines and conflict resolution.

11. United Nations Development Programme

49. The technical assistance programme of the Regional Bureau for Africa in UNDP, in cooperation with the SADC and with its 14 member States, has been strategically targeted to SADC priority areas, including, the promotion of sustainable human development in the region and to strengthening the Community as it evolves and integrates into the global economy. One of the key outcomes has been the launching in February 1999 of the first Southern Africa Human Development Report focusing on governance. In cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNDP has provided support to the SADC Programme of Assistance for Human Rights and the Rule of Law and assisted in the launching, in Pretoria in February 1999, of the SADC Regional Office for Human Rights, which will provide technical assistance to SADC countries in developing their governance and human rights programmes and in the establishment of human rights institutions.

50. UNDP is helping SADC to develop policies and programmes aimed at ensuring food security in the region, including the management of data and information on agricultural production and distribution and is providing technical assistance for the creation and management of a farm animal genetic resources repository. During the reporting period, UNDP focused on the provision of potable water in the region and provided assistance to the SADC Coordination Unit in Maseru for the study of the water resources endowment of the region and the development of a regional resource management strategy and investment plan which culminated in the SADC Water Resources Round Table held in Geneva on 10 November 1998.

51. In addition, the UNDP Subregional Resource Facility in Harare is establishing a network of technical expertise to be drawn upon by SADC organs and individual countries on a broad range of thematic areas of sustainable human development and is planning two critical regional technical assistance programmes, one in the area of addressing the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the second to enhance the development of trade corridors and foster interregional economic cooperation.

12. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

52. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Division on International Trade in Goods and Services and Commodities project, financed by the Government of Italy, is providing technical assistance in the implementation of the SADC Trade Protocol, which aims to establish a free trade area in the region and to further integrate and stimulate the SADC economies. UNCTAD has signed a memorandum of understanding with the SADC secretariat for establishing a SADC database on tariffs and trade and assists member States in elaborating negotiating proposals at the Trade-Negotiating Forum, one of the main organs set up by the SADC Protocol on Trade. Under this programme, national workshops and advisory missions on the SADC Trade Protocol and its relations with the international trading system have been undertaken in Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa. UNCTAD has assisted South Africa in the area of tariff negotiations and rules of origin with the European Union and in work on the establishment of a free trade area, and SADC with technical support to elaborate a SADC common position in WTO multilateral trade negotiations.

13. Universal Postal Union

53. In 1999, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) set up a Regional Support Centre for Telematics activities for SADC and East African countries. The Centre will deploy UPU applications in regional countries, resulting in the automation of postal enterprises, which then participate in regional as well as global electronic data exchange on products and services, and in the implementation of information technologies in the management of postal enterprises in the region and their modernization.

14. United Nations University

54. In 1999, the United Nations University (UNU) Institute for Natural Resources in Africa based in Ghana and Zambia launched a lecture series on the conservation and management of natural resources, in which representatives of the SADC Environment and Land Management Sector Coordination Unit participated. The UNU has also involved SADC experts in its research on Globalization and Africa that fed into the second Tokyo International Conference on African Development in October 1998 and in the UNU/FAO International Network of Food Data Systems project to improve data on the nutrient composition of foods.

15. World Health Organization

55. The Regional Office for Africa of the World Health Organization (WHO) and those in SADC countries have continued to ensure safe blood supplies, syndromic management of sexually transmitted diseases, prevention and treatment of congenital syphilis and of HIV/AIDS. WHO has initiated an assessment of the HIV/AIDS crisis in the SADC countries, including a fund-raising campaign and given financial support to non-governmental organizations involved in HIV/AIDS prevention and care.

56. The Regional Reproductive Health Strategy of WHO is operative in most SADC countries, with Angola and Mozambique targeted for increased capacity for safer motherhood services. Following the upsurge of fighting in Angola at the end of 1998, WHO intensified support to the Angolan health ministry and for health-care non-governmental organizations, with programmes aimed at internally displaced people, improving access to drugs and health care, safe blood transfusion for control of HIV/AIDS, control of tuberculosis and trypanosomiasis and the control of epidemic diseases such as cholera, measles, meningitis and polio. Over 600,000 children in Luanda Province and 300,000 in Benguela Province were vaccinated against polio.

57. Assistance provided by WHO to women's health care facilities in Zambia and Zimbabwe has resulted in improved community-based maternal and child health care, water and sanitation, training of midwives, immunization and family planning and antenatal care. WHO continued efforts to eliminate female genital mutilation as well as to create public awareness of health consequences of violence against women and children.

16. World Intellectual Property Organization

58. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is assisting Angola, Botswana and Mauritius in establishing a nationally focused action plan in the field of intellectual property and has conducted needs assessment missions in the area of industrial property, automation, patents and copyright in Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

59. WIPO assisted in the organization of both national and regional seminars and training courses attended by representatives from SADC countries on copyright and neighbouring rights (Harare, May 1998); the Patent Cooperation Treaty (Harare, July 1998); industrial property (Harare, September 1998); support for African investors (Mahé, November 1998); teaching of new intellectual property issues (Pretoria, October 1998); and protection of performers' rights (Lilongwe, October 1998).

60. During the reporting period, experts and officials from SADC countries participated in seminars on technology for patent information, industrial property, legal, administrative and economic aspects of industrial property, patent documentation, and on enforcement of intellectual property rights held in European cities.

17. United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention

61. In the context of its drug control projects in southern Africa, the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention is creating substantive linkages and operational synergies to promote cooperation in the fields of interdiction of drugs from Brazil to Africa and on drug abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention, targeting injecting drug users.